

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 IO-13 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /069 W
-----045645 270500Z /23

O R 270330Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8844
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 2758

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: REFUGEE PROBLEMS

REF: BANGKOK 2712

1. PRIME MINISTER APPEARED MOST CONCERNED OVER REFUGEE SITUATION IN SONGKHLA AREA WHEN AMBASSADOR RAISED IT WITH HIM EVENING OF JANUARY 26. HE AGAIN REPEATED THAT INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY THE POLICE TO LOCAL FISHERMEN WERE CONTRARY TO HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. HE SAID THAT UPON LEARNING OF SITUATION DESCRIBED IN BANGKOK 2712, HE ORDERED DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER PREM TINSULANON AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF LOCAL ADMINISTRATION DAMRONG SUNTHON-SARATHUN TO GO AT ONCE TO SONGKHLA. HE SAID HE WELCOMED FACT AMBASSADOR AND THESE OFFICIALS WOULD BE THERE AT THE SAME TIME. PRIME MINISTER REACTED NON-COMMITTALLY TO AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT THAT MUCH OF THE DIFFICULTY IN SONGKHLA ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE THE RESULT OF ACTIONS TAKEN -- OR NOT TAKEN -- BY THE VICE-GOVERNOR.

2. IN HIS AFTER DINNER SPEECH, THE PRIME MINISTER RETURNED
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TO THE QUESTION OF REFUGEES AND MQRE THREE POINTS:

A. THE REFUGEE PROBLEM WAS INTERNATIONAL AND NOT ONLY
A PROBLEM FOR THAILAND.

B. WHILE HE HOPED MANY COUNTRIES WOULD ACCEPT REFUGEES, HE ALSO
HOPED THAT AN EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO PERSUADE THE INDOCHINESE

COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT THE RETURN OF THEIR REFUGEES WITH GUARANTEES
OF SAFETY.

C. THAILAND WOULD ACCEPT "CERTAIN REFUGEES" DEPENDING ON CIR-
CUMSTANCES AT SOME FUTURE DATE.

3. COMMENT. WE TAKE THE DESPATCH OF GENERAL PREM, WHO IS IN
FACT THE ACTING MINISTER OF INTERIOR, TO SONGKHLA AS AN
INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS AND CONCERN WITH WHICH THE
GOVERNMENT VIEWS THE CONTINUING REPORTS OF MALTREATMENT
OF REFUGEES IN SOUTH THAILAND. AMBASSADOR AND BARNES EXPECT
TO MEET WITH PREM AND DAMRONG THERE TODAY.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 27 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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SAS ID: 3704435
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REFUGEE PROBLEMS
TAGS: SREF
To: STATE
Type: TE
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